

SAMPLING SMALL FLOCK POULTRY HOUSES (FEWER THAN 3,000 BIRDS) FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI)

ITEMS REQUIRED:

- ☐ Clean clothing and other personal and biosecurity protection equipment.
- ☐ Viral transport kit containing a box of 20 (10 ml tubes) of VTM and accompanying swabs.
- ☐ Latex or vinyl gloves.
- ☐ Permanent marking pen.
- ☐ Cooler and ice packs, etc.

SAMPLE COLLECTION:

Note: If a foreign animal disease (a reportable FAD, such as LPAI or HPAI) is suspected, sampling can only be conducted by a certified FADD (Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician). Prior notification of USDA or DAG is required.

- ☐ A total of 10 tubes are collected per poultry house.
- ☐ Each tube contains 5 swabs for each specified site (for a total of 50 swabs in 10 tubes).
- ☐ Twenty additional swabs per house (5 swabs in each of 4 tubes) are taken if poultry are composted within the poultry house.
- ☐ Every building must be sampled.

AREAS TO SAMPLE:

Note: Bias sampling to favor areas that are more likely to contain influenza virus.

- ☐ Interior of Buildings:
 - Floors: Within buildings, take 10 swabs (10 swabs, 2 tubes) representative of floors. Concentrate on any areas with organic debris.
 - Walls: Within buildings take 10 swabs (10 swabs, 2 tubes) representative of walls and pen structures (wooden gates, feeders, equipment).
- ☐ Exterior of Buildings: From the exterior of buildings, take 20 swabs (20 swabs, 4 tubes) representative of:
 - Poultry congregating areas,
 - Feeders, and
 - Any particular shallow pooled water, wet or muddy areas.
- ☐ Additional Samples: Select 10 additional discretionary swabs (10 swabs, 2 tubes). Suggestions include:
 - Areas with significant accumulation of manure.
 - Equipment, including coops and transport vehicles that are on the premise and that are used to transport poultry.
 - If poultry are reared entirely indoors, additional indoor areas.
 - If poultry are composted within the house, take 20 swabs (20 swabs, 4 tubes) from representative areas of the compost piles.
 - If the house contains nest boxes, take 10 swabs (10 swabs, 2 tubes) from representative areas of the nest boxes/nesting areas.

Sample Collection and Submission:

- ❑ Samples can be tested at any DAG or USDA approved laboratory.
 - Call the laboratory in advance to let them know when the samples will arrive
- ❑ To ensure the integrity of swab samples:
 - Check that viral transport medium (VTM) has not changed to a bright pink color (or that clear amber BHI has not turned cloudy) and has not passed the date of expiration.
 - VTM should be refrigerated at all times.
 - Saturate swabs with VTM prior to sampling and immediately following sampling.
 - Place 5 swabs in each tube after sampling.
 - Mark each tube and indicate which samples represent particular areas as detailed.
 - Use a separate submission form for each area.
 - Disinfect the exterior of tubes and box (including inside of lid) prior to transporting to laboratory.
 - Write the farm name and Premise ID on the bottom of the box of samples (not on the lid).
 - Keep the swabs in VTM on fresh ice packs until transporting to an approved laboratory (you may need to change ice packs at least every 24 hours).
 - If samples are stored in a freezer for more than 72 hours, place a plastic bag around each box and seal to prevent drying of the VTM.
 - Place a completed copy of an AI Sample Submission Form in each box with the corresponding samples. Samples must be identified with Premise ID, farm name, phone number, and date of sample collection. If you need a Premise ID number, call the DEM Division of Agriculture.